

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dry Creek at Antelope Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*28192

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2724 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias None

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 385200N  
State Colorado Longitude 1051919W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38105-G3	Wrights Reservoir
38105-H3	Lake George

## County

Teller (CO)

Park (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11020002	Upper Arkansas
10190001	South Platte Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	8,700.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,651.76	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	9,240.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,816.35	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

The site is drawn for a population of pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*) inhabiting the aptly named Dry Creek. The majority of Dry Creek is a moist to wet draw with a narrow stream channel. The hydrology has been altered by the construction of several small ponds on Dry Creek and its tributaries. The wetland soil consists of silty clay loam. The dominant plant community is mountain rush (*Juncus arcticus* var. *littoralis*) herbaceous vegetation. Uplands on the surrounding rolling hills are intact except for a small subdivision immediately south of the site and a working ranch and road in the middle of the site. The flat uplands adjacent to Dry Creek are an Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*) / slimstem muhly (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*) grassland. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) woodlands dominate the hilltops. Upland soil consists of Guffey very gravelly sandy loam (USDA NRCS 2008). The underlying geology is Pikes Peak granite (Tweto 1979). The site is grazed moderately by livestock and wildlife. Wildlife observed include: mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

## Key Environmental Factors

Pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*) occurs in meadows with moist to saturated soils. This population inhabits moist soil, whereas the wetter soils below the pond are currently inhabited by its close relative, strict blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum* var. *montanum*). If the water source were to dry up such that even the area below the pond were dry, the population would likely not persist.

## Climate Description

Teller County is cool and dry considering that Pikes Peak has the topographic relief to cool humid air and initiate precipitation. Average annual precipitation is 10.5-16.2 inches (<http://www.worldclimate.com>), depending upon exact location within the county. Snowfall is greatest in April and May. Monsoon rains peak in July. Spring and summer therefore have the greatest precipitation, and sunny fall weather dries out the landscape. Teller County has the second highest rate of lightning strikes nationwide, an annual average of 5,700 strikes that reach the ground. (Precipitation timing and lightning information was taken from Teller County 2008). Average maximum temperature is lowest, 30 °F (-1.1 °C), in January, and highest, 75.4 °F (24.1 °C), in July. Average minimum temperature is lowest, -2.8 °F (-19.4 °C), in January, and highest, 45.9 °F (7.7 °C) in July (<http://www.worldclimate.com>).

## Land Use History

No Data

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## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 12/03/2010

Designer Shaw, A.E.

## Boundary Justification

The site boundary is drawn to encompass Dry Creek's watershed north of Teller County Road 12 and the adjacent subdivision. This includes the entire area that drains into the slough to provide surface water to maintain soil moisture for the population of pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*). It also includes wet meadow habitat downstream that the population could potentially colonize. Only the private lands for which written permission was granted were visited.

Primary Area 1,180.39 Acres

477.69 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) population of pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*), a plant that that is globally imperiled (G2G3/S2). This species is a regional endemic, ranging from central Colorado to southeastern Wyoming (Spackman et al. 1997).

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

## Other Values Comments

Although not drawn for these elements, there is a grassland community Arizona fescue - Mountain muhly (*Festuca arizonica* - *Muhlenbergia montana*) in good condition. Two American Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) were observed overhead and a small population of Gunnison's prairie dog was observed. While these species depend on much larger areas for survival, the site may provide valuable habitat nonetheless.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

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<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198660	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, and A. Shaw. 2011. CNHP Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Teller County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
162471	Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. Colorado rare plant field guide. Prepared for Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
198642	Teller County (Web Page). Accessed 2010. 2008 Teller County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. <a href="http://www.co.teller.co.us/OEM/tellercopdm_plan.pdf">http://www.co.teller.co.us/OEM/tellercopdm_plan.pdf</a>
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
198640	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2008. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for Teller-Park Area, Parts of Teller and Park Counties, Colorado. Fort Worth, TX: United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/03/2010

Version Author Shaw, A.E.

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